

The Fraternitie of Vacabondes.

As wel of ruslyng Vacabondes, as of beg-
gerly, of women as of men, of Gyrls as
of Boyes, with their proper names and qualities.
With a description of the crafty com-
pany of Cousoners and Shifters.

Wherunto also is adioyned the .xxv. Or-
ders of Knaues, otherwys called a Quartern of Knaues,
Confirmed for ever by Cocke Lorell.

(*)

The Vprightman speaketh,
Our Brothethood of Vacabondes,
If you would know where dwell:
In graues end Barge which syldome standes,
The talke wyll shew ryght well.

Cocke Lorell aunswereth.
Some orders of my Knaues also
In that Barge shall ye fynde:
For no where shall ye walke I trow,
But ye shall see their kynde.

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The Printer to the Reader.

This brotherhood of Uacabondes,
To shew that there be such in deede:
Both Iustices and men of Landes,
Wyll testifye it if it neede.

For at a Sessions as they sat,
By chaunce a Uacabond was got.

Who promysde if they would him spare,
And keepe his name from knowledge then:
He would as straunge a thing declare,
As euer they knew synce they were men.

But if my fellowes do know (sayd he)
That thus I dyd, they would kyl me.

They graunting him this his request,
He dyd declare as here is read,
Both names and states of most and least,
Of this their Uacabondes brotherhood.
Which at the request of a worshipful mā
I haue set it forth as well as I can.

FINIS.



¶ The Fraternitie of Vacabondes both rusing and beggerly, Men and Women,

Boyes and Gyrls, wyth their proper names and
qualities. Whereunto are adioyned the
company of Cousoners and Shifters.

¶ An Abraham Man.



A Abraham man is he that walketh bare
arined, and bare legged, and sayneth hym
selfe mad, and carpeth a packe of wool, or
a stycke with baken on it, or such lyke toy,
and nameth himselfe pooze Tom.

¶ A Ruffeler.
A Ruffeler goeth wyth a weapon to seeke service,
saying he hath bene a Seruitoꝝ in the wars, and beg-
geth for his reliefe. But his chiefest trade is to robbe
pooze wayfaring men and market women.

¶ A Prygman

A Prygman goeth with a stycke in hys hand like an
idle person. His propertye is to steale cloathes of the
hedge, which they call stozing of the Rogeman: or els
siltch Boultry, carping them to the Alehouse, whych
they call the Bowlyng In, a ther syt playing at cardes
and Dice, tyl that is spent which they haue so fylched.

¶ A VVhipiacke

A Whypiacke is one, that by couloꝝ of a counterfaite
Lisence (which they call a Gybe, and the seales they cal
Farckes) doth vse to beg lyke a Harpner, But hys
chiefest trade is to rob Bowthes in a faire, or to pilfer
wode fro Raules, which they cal heauing of the Bowth

¶ A Frater.
A Frater goeth wyth a like Lisence to beg for some
Spittlehouse or Hospital. Their pray is comonly vps
poore

chall A

poore women as they go and come to the Markets.

¶ A Quire bird.

A Quire bird is one that came lately out of prison, & goeth to seeke seruiſe. He is commonly a ſealer of Hoſſes, which they terme a Driggat of Paullſreys.

¶ An Vpright man.

An Upright man is one that goeth wyth the frun-
chion of a ſtaffe, which ſtaffe they cal a ſlitche mā. This
man is of ſo much authoriſty, that meeting with any of
his profeſſion, he may cal them to accompt, & cōmaund
a ſhare oz ſnap vnto him ſelfe, of al that they haue ga-
ned by their trade in one moneth. And if he doo them
wzong, they haue no remedy agaynſt hym, no though
he beate them, as he bleth commonly to do. He may alſo
cōmaund any of their women, which they cal Dories,
to ſerue his turne. He hath ȳ chiefe place at any market
walke & other aſſembles, & is not of any to be cōtroled.

¶ A Curtall.

A Curtall is much like to the Upright man, but hys
authoriſty is not fully ſo great. He bleth commonly to
go with a ſhort cloke, like to grey friers, & his woman
with him in like liuery, which he calleth his Altham if
ſhe be hys wyfe, & if ſhe be his harlot, ſhe is called hys
Dory.

¶ A Palliard.

A Palliard is he that goeth in a patched cloke, and
hys Dory goeth in like apparell.

¶ An Iriſhe toyle.

An Iriſhe toyle is he that carrieth his ware in hys
waller, as laces, pins, poyntes, and ſuch like. He bleth
to ſhew no wares vntill he haue his almes. And if the
good man and wyfe be not in the way, he procureth of
the child, oz ſeruants, a ſheep of wood, oz the worth of
xiij. s. of ſome other thing, for a peniworth of his wares.

¶ A Iack.

The Fraternity of Vatabondes,

A Jack man, is he that can write and read; and sometime speake latin. He useth to make counterfeit sentences which they call Cybes, and sets to Seales, in their language called Jarkes.

A Swygman goeth with a Pedlers pack.

A washman.

A Washman is called a Da liard, but not of the right making. He useth to lye in the hye way with lame or soze legs or armes to beg. These men & right Billiards wil often times spoile, but they dare not coplayn. They be bitten with Spickworts, & sometime with rats bone.

A Tinkard.

A Tinkard leaueth his bag a sweating at the Alehouse, which they terme their Bowling In, and in the meane leason goeth abroad a begging.

A wylde Roge.

A wilde Roge is he that hath no abiding place but by his coulour of going abroad to beg, is commonly to seeke some kinsman of his, and all that be of hys corporation be properly called Roges.

A Kitchen Co.

A Kitchin Co is called an ydle ronnagafe Boy.

A Kitchen Mortes.

A Kitchin Mortes is a Gyrl, she is brought at her full age to the Upright man to be broken, and so she is called a Dory, until she come to y honoz of an Altham.

Doxies.

Note especially all which go abroade working laces and Wirt Aringes, they name them Doxies.

A Patriarke Co.

A Patriarke Co doth make mariages, & that is until death

Death depart the married folke, which is after this sorte
When they come to a dead Horse or any dead Catell,
then they make hands and so depart euery one of them
a seuerall way.

C The company of Cousoners and

Shifters.

C A Curtesy man.

A Curtesy man is one that walketh about the back
lanes in London in the day time, and sometime in the
broad streets in the night season, and when he meet
eth some handsome young man cleanly appareled, or some
other honest Citizen, he maketh humble salutations and
low curtesy, and sheweth him that he hath a worde or
two to speake with his mastership. This child can be-
haue him selfe manerly, for he wyll desire him that he
talketh withall, to take the vpper hand, and shew him
much reuerence, and at last like his famillier acquain-
taunce will put on his cap, and walke syde by syde, and
talke on this fashion: Oh syr, you seeme to be a man,
and one that fauoureth men, and therefore I am the
more bolder to breake my mind vnto your good mas-
tership. Thus it is syr, that is a certaine of vs (though
I say it both faule and handsome men of theyr hands)
which haue come lately from the wars, and as God
knoweth haue nothing to take to, being both maister-
les and monles, & knowing no way wherby to perne
one peny. And further, wher as we haue bene welthely
brought vp, and we also haue beene had in good esti-
matio, we are ashamed now to declare our misery, and
to fall a crauing as common Beggers, and as for to
steale and robbe (God is our recozd) it striketh vs to
the

the hart, to thinke of such a mischiefe, that ener any handsome man should fall into such a danger for this worldly trash. Which if we had to suffice our want and necessity, we should neuer seeke thus shamefastly to craue on such good pityfull men as you seeme to be, neither yet so daungerously to harsarde our liues for so vyle a thing. Therefore good s^r, as you seeme to be a handsome man your selfe, and also such a one as pitteth the miserable case of handsome men, as now your eyes and countenaunce sheweth to haue some pity vppon this my miserable complainte: So in Gods cause I require your maiestie, & in the behalfe of my pooze afflicted fellowes, which though here in sight they cry not with me to you, yet wheresoeuer they bee, I am sure they cry vnto God to moue the heartes of some good men to shew forth their liberality in this behalfe. All which & I with them craue now the same request at your good masterships hand. With these or such like words he frameth his talke. Now if the party (which he thus talketh withall) profereth hym a peny or. ii. s. he taketh it, but verpe scornfully, and at last speaketh on this sorte: Well s^r, your good will is not to be refused. But yet you shall vnderstand (good s^r) that this is nothing for them, for whom I do thus shamefastly entreate. Alas s^r, it is not a greate or. xii. s. I speake for, being such a company of Seruiters as wee haue bene: yet neuertheles God forbid I should not receiue your gentle offer at this time, hoping hereafter through your good motions to some such lyke good gentleman as you be, that I, or some of my fellowes in my place, shall finde the more liberality. These kind of ydle Vacabondes w^{ill} go commonly well appareled, without any

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any weapon, and in place where they meete together, as at their hostleries or other places, they will beate the port of ryght good gentlemen, & some are the more trusted, but commonly they pay them by stealing a paire of Shettes, or Couerlet, & so take their farewell early in the morning, before the mayster or dame be stirring.

A Chentour or Fingerer.

These commonly be such kinde of idle Vacabondes as scarcely a man shall discerne, they go so gorgeously, sometime with waiting men, and sometime without. Their trade is to walke in such places, where as gentlemen & other worshipfull Citizens do resorte, as at Doules, or at Christes Hospital, & sometime at the Royal exchaunge. These haue very many acquaintaunces, yea, and for the most part will acquaint them selues with every man, and sayne a society, in one place or other. But chiefly they will seeke their acquaintaunce of such (which they haue learned by diligent enquiring where they resort) as haue receyued some porcion of money of their friends, as yong Gentlemen which are sent to London to study the lawes, or els some yong Marchant man or other kynde of Occupier, whose friendes hath geuen them a stock of money to occupy withall. When they haue thus found out such a pray, they will find the meanes by theyr familiarity, as very curteously to bid him to breakfast at one place or other, where they are best acquainted, and closely amonge themselves will appoint one of their Fraternity, which they call a Fyngerer, an olde beate childe, not onely in such Decettes, but also such a one as by his age is painted out with gray heares, wrinkled face, crooked back, and most commonly lame, as it might seeme with age,

yea

pen and such a one as to shew a suppittity, that weare a
homely cloke and hat scarce worth. vi. d. This nimble
fingred knight (being appointed to this place) cometh
in as one not knownen of these Cheatours, but as vn-
wares that sit down at the end of the bozd where they
syt, & call for his peny pot of wine, or a pinte of Ale, as
the place serueth. Thus sitting as it were alone, mum-
bling on a crust, or some such thing, these other yone-
kers wil finde some kind of mery talke with him, some
times questoning wher he dwelleth, & sometimes en-
quiring what trade he vseth, which comonly he telleth
them he vseth huibandry: & talking thus merely, at
last they aske him, how sayest thou father, wilt thou
play for thy breakfast with one of vs, that we may haue
some pastime as we syt. Thys olde Harle making it
straunge at the first saith: My maysters ich am an old
man, and halfe blinde, and can skyl of very feble games,
yet for that you seeme to be such good Gentlemen, as
to profer to play for that of which you had no part, but
onely I my selfe, and therefore of right ich am woorthy
to pay for it, I shal with all my hart fulfyl your request.
And so falleth to play, sometime at Cardes, & sometime
at Dice. Which through his counterfait simplicity in the
play sometimes ouer counteth himself, or playeth some-
times against his wyl, so as he would not, & then coun-
terfaiteth to be angry, and falleth to swearing, & so lea-
sing that, proiereth to play for a shilling or two. The
other therat hauing good sport, seiming to mocke him,
falleth againe to play, and so by the yarger demane, &
counterfaising, winneth ech of them a shilling or twain,
& at last whispereth the yong man in the eare to play
with hym also, that ech one might haue a fling at him.

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This yong mā for company falleth againe to play also with the sayd fyngerer, and winneth as the other did which when he had losse a noble oz .vi.s. maketh as though he had lost al his mony, and falleth a intreating for parte thereof againe to bzing him home, which the other knowing his mind and intent, stoutely denieth and iesteth & scoffeth at him. This fyngerer seeming then to be in a rage, desireth thē as they are true gentlemen, to tarry till he fetcheth more store of money, oz els to point some place where they may meete. They seeming greedy hereof, promisetly faithfully and clappeth handes so to meete. They thus ticklyng the young man in the eare, willeth him to make as much money as he can, and they will make as much as they can, and consent as though they wil play booty against him. But in the ende they so vse the matter, that both the young man leese his part and as it seemeth to him, they leese theirs also, and so maketh as though they would fal together by the eares with this fyngerer, which by one wyle oz other at last conueyeth him selfe away, & they as it were raging lyke mad bedlams, one runneth one way, an other an other way leauing the loser in deepe all alone. Thus these Cheatours at their accustomed hosteries meete closely together, and there receiue ech one his part of this their vile spoyle. Of this fraternity there be that be called helpers, which commonly haunt saueries oz alehouses, and cometh in as men not acquainted with none in the companye, but spying them at any game, wil byd them God speede and God be at their game, and will so place him selfe that he will shew his fellows by sygnes and tokens, without speech commonly, but sometime with far fetched wordes

woordes, what cardes he hath in his hand, and how
he may play against him. And those betwene the both
getteth money out of the others purse.

¶ A Ring faller.

A Ring faller is he that getteth fayre copper rings,
some made like signets, & some after other fashions, ve-
ry faice gylde, & walketh vp and down the streetes, til
he spieth some man of the country or some other simple
body whom he thinketh he may deceaue, and so goeth
a lttle befoze him or them, and letteth fall one of these
rings, which when the party that commeth after spi-
eth and taketh it vp, he hauing an eye backward, crieth
halfe part, the party that taketh it vp, thinking it to be
of great value, profereth him some money for his part,
which he not fully denieth but willet him to come in
to some alehouse or tauerne, and there they will com-
mon vpon the matter. Which when they come in, and
are set in some solitary place (as commonly they call for
such a place) there he desireth the party that found the
ring to shew it him. When he seeth it, he falleth a en-
treating the party that found it, and desireth him to
take money for his part, and telleth him that if ever he
may do him any frendship hereafter he shal commaund
him, for he maketh as though he were very desirous
to haue it. The simple man seeing him so importune
vpon it, thinketh the ring to bee of great balure, and
so is the more lother to part from it. At last this ring
faller asketh him what he will geue him for his part,
for saith he, seeing you wyl not let me haue the ring, a-
lowe me my part, and take you the ring. The other as-
keth what he counteth the ring to be worth, he answe-
reth, v. or vi. pound. No saith he it is not so much worth

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Well (saith this Ringfaller) let me haue it, and I wyll
alowe you .xl. s. for your part. The other party standyng
in a doubt, and looking on the rpyng, asketh if he wyll
geue the money out of hand. The other answereth, he
hath not so much ready mony about him, but he wil go
fetch so much for him, if he wil go with him. The other
that found the ring, thinking he meaneth truly, begin-
neth to profer him .xx. s. for his part, sometymes more,
or les, which he verpe scornfullpe refuseth at the first,
and styl entreateth that he might haue the ring, which
maketh the other more sonder of it, and desireth him to
take the money for his part, & so profereth him money.
This ring faller scing h mony, maketh it very straunge,
and first questioneth with him wher he dwelleth, and
asketh him what is his name, & telleth him that he see-
meth to be an honest man, and therfore he wil do some
what for friendship sake, hoping to haue as friendly
apleasure at his hand hereafter, and so profereth hym
for .x. s. more he should haue the rpyng. At last with en-
treatye on both partes, he geueth the Ring faller the
money, and so departeth, thynkyng he hath gotten a
very great Jewell. These kynde of deceyving Vaca-
bondes haue other practises with their rings, as som-
times to come to buy wares of mens wrentesies, and
sometymes of their Maisters, and when he hath agreed
of the pryce, he sayth he hath not so much money about
him, but pulleth of one of these rings of from his fyn-
gers, and profereth to leaue it in payme, tyl hyr Mai-
ster or his friendes hath sene it, so promysing to bring
the money. The seller thinking he meaneth truly, letteth
him go, and neuer seeth him after, tyl perhaps at Ty-
burne or at such lyke place. Ther is another kinde of
these

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these King choppers, which commonly carry about them a faire gold ring in deede, and these haue other counterfeit rings made so lyke this gold ring, as ye shal not perceiue the contrary, tyl it be brought to þe touchstone. This child wyl come to bozow many of the right gold ring, the party mistrusting the King not to be good, goeth to the Goldsmith with the partye that hath the ring, and tryeth it whether it be good golde, and also wayeth it to knowe how much it is worth. The Goldsmith tryeth it to be good gold, and also to haue bysful weightlike gold, and warenteth the party which shall lend the money that the ring is worth so much money according to the weight, this punket coming home with the party which shall lend the money, and hauing the gold ring againe, putteth by the gold ring, and pulleth out a counterfeit ring very like the same, and so delivereth it to the party which lendeth the money, they thinking it to be the same which they tried, and so delivereth the money, or sometimes waiceth, and thus wyl be deceived.

¶ The .xxv. Orders of Knaues, otherwise called a quarterne of Knaues, continued

for euery by Cocke Lorell

1 Trol and Trol by

Trol and Trol by, is he that setteth naught by no man, nor no man by him. This is he that would beate one in a place, and haue none answer nor thanke, & at last is thrust out of the doore like a knave.

2 Trol with

Trol with, is he þat no man shall knowe the seruants from þe Maister. This knave with his cap on his head lyke

lyke Capon hardy, wpll lye Downe by his Maister, or els go cheeke by cheeke with him in the streete.

10. Trol hazard of trace.

Trol hazard of trace is he that goeth behynde his Maister as far as he may see hym. Such knaues commonly vse to buy Spicetakes, Apples or other trifles, and doo eat them as they go in the streetes lyke vacabond Boyes.

11. Trol hazard of retrate.

Trol hazard of retrate, is he that goeth gaping after his Maister, looking to and fro tyl he haue lost him. This knaue goeth gasyng about lyke a foole at euery top, and then seeketh in euery house lyke a Maisterles Dog, and when his Maister nedeth him, he is to seeke.

12. Chase Litter.

Chase Litter is he that wpll plucke vp the fetherbed or Matrice, and pssle in the bedstraw, and wpll neuer clye vncalled. This knaue betapeth many tymes in the corners of his Maisters chamber, or other places inconuenient, and maketh cleane hys shooes with the couerlet or curtaines.

13. Obloquium.

Obloquium is hee that wpll take a tale out of his Maisters mouth and tell it him selfe. He of right may be called a malapart knaue.

7. Rince Pytcher.

Rince Pytcher is he that will drinke out his thurst at the ale or wine, and be oft times dronke. This is a licource knaue that will swill his Maisters drinke, and drye his meate that is kept for him.

8. Jeffrey Gods Fo.

Jeffrey Gods Fo is he, that will sweare & maintaine vncertaine things, and saye that he knoweth otherwise.

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offes. This is such a lying knaue that none will beleue him, for the more he sweareth, & les he is to be beleued.

9 Nichol Hardes.

Nichol Hartles is he, that when he should do ought for his Maister hys hart faileth him. This is a Treward knaue that faineth himselfe sicke when he should worke.

10 Simon soone agon.

Simon soone agon is he, that when his Maister hath any thing to do, he will hide him out of the way. This is a loytring knaue that will hide him in a corner and sleepe or els run away.

11 Grene winchard.

Greene Winchard is he, that when his hose is broken and hange out at his shoes, he will put them into his shoes againe with a stick, but he will not amend them. This is a slouthfull knaue, that had leauer go lyke a begger then cleanly.

12 Proctour.

Proctour is he, that will tarre long, and bring a lye, when his Maister sendeth him on his errand. This is a flibber gibber knaue, that doth sayne tales.

13 Commitour of Tidings.

Commitour of Tidings is he, that is ready to bring his Maister Nouels and tidings, whether they be true or false. This is a tale bearer knaue, that will report words spoken in his Maisters presence.

14 Gyle Hather.

Gyle Hather is he, that will stand by his Maister when he is at dinner, and bid him beware that he eate no rabe meate, because he would eate it himselfe. This is a pickthanke knaue, that would make his Maister beleue

The xxv. Orders of Knaves.

Believe that the Cocke is the obe, and he that is a Cocke, when his Master meate is euill dressed, and he challenging him therfore, he wyl say he wylleate the rawest morsel thereof hym selfe. This is a saucy knaue, that wyl contrary his Master alway.

Mouuch present.

Mouuch present is he that is a great gentleman, for when his Master sendeth him with a present, he wyl take a tast thereof by the waye. This is a bold knaue, that sometyne will eat the best and leaue the worst for his Master.

Cole Prophet is he, that when his Master sendeth him on his errand, he wyl tel his answer therof to his Master or he depart from hym. This fittuall knaue commonly maketh the worke of the best betwene hys Master and his friende.

Corp fauell is he, that wyl lye in his bed, and corp the bed boordes in which hee lyeth in steede of his horse. This slouthfull knaue wyl buskill and scratch when he is called in the morning, for any hast.

Dyng thrist is he, that will make his Masters horse eat pie, and rybs of beefe, and drinke ale and wyne. Such false knaues oft tymes, will sell their Masters meate to their owne profit.

Elen Droppers bene they, that stand under mens waies or windowes, or in any other place, to heare the secretes

secretes of a mans house. These wisdoming knaues
wyl stand in corners to heare if they be euill spoken of,
oz waitt a word turne.

21 Coplogyke.

Choplogyke, is he that when his mayster rebuketh
him of hys fault he wyl geue hym .xx. wordes for one,
els byd the deuils Dater noster in silence. This proude
prating knaue wyl maintaine his naughtines when
he is rebuked for them.

22 Vnthrift.

Vnthrift, is he that wil not put his wearing clothes
to washing, nor black his owne soes, nor amend his
his own wearing clothes. This rechles knaue wyl al-
way be lousy: and say that hee hath no moze thrift of
clothes, and flaunder his Maister.

23 Vngracious.

Vngracious, is he þ by his own will, will heare no
maner of seruice, without he be compelled therunto by
his rulers. This knaue wil sit at the alehouse drinking
oz playing at dice, oz at other games at seruice tyme.

24 Nunquam.

Nunquam, is he that when his Maister sendeth him
on his errand he wil not come againe of an hour oz two
where he might haue done it in halfe an houre oz lesse.
This knaue will go about his owne errand oz pastime
and saith he cannot speede at the first.

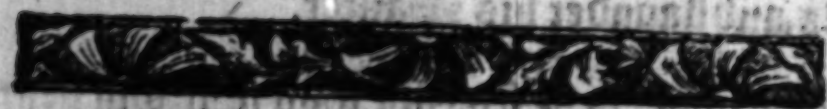
25 Ingratus.

Ingratus, is he that when one doth all that he can
for him, he will scant geue him a good report for his
labour. This knaue is so ingrate oz unkind, þ he confis-
deth not his frend fro his fo, & wil requit euil for good
& being put most in trust, wil sonest deceine his maister.

¶ J A J S.

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